



Energy and Technology Public Hearing – February 21st 2013

Written Submission VNA Community Healthcare

Support of HB 6402 – An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws

Senator Duff, Representative Reed and members of the Energy and Technology Committee-

I am Janine Fay, CEO of VNA Community Healthcare. We are a non-profit home care agency that cares for a wide variety of patients with varying needs across 33 towns in New Haven and Middlesex counties. The mission of VNA Community Healthcare is to promote and preserve the health, safety, dignity and independence of individuals and families by providing therapeutic and preventive health care services in their place of residence and in the community. But the VNA as you might know it is changing. Telehealth monitoring and Personal Safety Solutions are just a few of the many new services we provide our patients.

I write to you today in support of HB 6402 – An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws. Investment in advanced broadband networks can improve access to Telehealth monitoring and personal safety devices while encouraging increased collaboration between individuals and their caregivers.

Telehealth Monitoring is the delivery of health-related care and information. It can include transmission of vital signs, teleconferencing with doctors and specialists, or providing educational and preventive care information and resources. Personal Safety Solutions are products designed to keep people safe and secure whether at home or while traveling. These devices include: emergency response buttons, in-home and GPS-based sensors to monitor motion, inactivity and incontinence; Fall Detectors; and networked pill monitoring that sends reminders to take medication. All of these tools require one thing – a high quality telecommunications network, be it wired or wireless, to transmit the data.

Technology has brought about some life changing opportunities for individuals to preserve their health and independence. It provides access to better healthcare all the while providing peace of mind to families and caregivers. HB 6402 recognizes and advances the goal of ensuring universal availability and accessibility to the high quality telecommunication services that are necessary to provide those services. We urge you to consider these points when deciding on the merits of this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Janine Fay

BESIDE YOU AT EVERY TURN